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Faculty found new affinity group

Whites for Racial Justice aims to establish and strengthen students' solidarity

BY ALANA HARVEY
Staff Writer

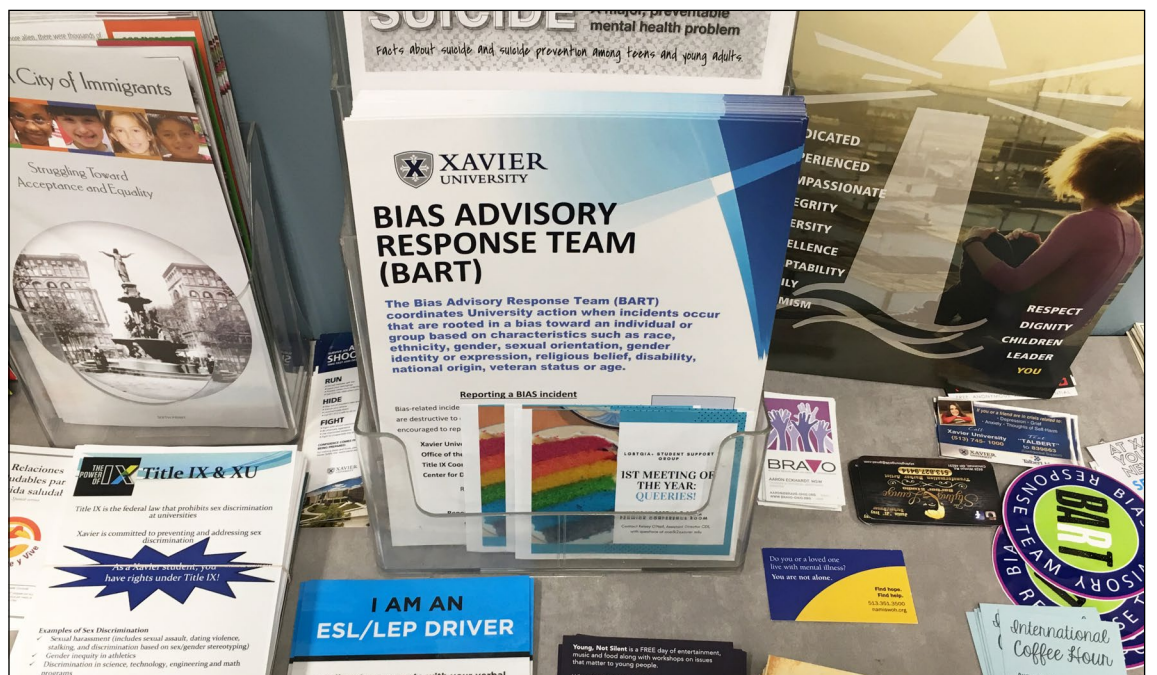
Xavier's new affinity group Whites for Racial Justice (WFRJ), which made its campus debut earlier this year, aims to establish and strengthen solidarity among students.

According to its mission statement, "Whites for Racial Justice (WFRJ) is an affinity space for self-identified white staff, faculty and students at Xavier University who want to become anti-racist, anti-supremacist white allies and examine their own ideas about race and racism." It also aims "to develop awareness, knowledge, and skills that will enable us to work in solidarity with others towards racial justice on campus and in our broader community."

The group was founded at the beginning of 2018 by staff members Randy Browne, Tracey DuEst, John Fairfield and Andrea Wawrzusin. Fairfield explained that the four staff members, who serve as the group's facilitators, were inspired to make WFRJ an established group because of an increased presence of racist attitudes both locally and nationally.

"(We) came together out of a concern about the way racist attitudes have become more prevalent and more accepted both on campus and in the country at large," Fairfield said.

While the facilitators aim to address and eradicate these issues, they add that the source and solutions for said issues are not as concrete.



Newswire photo by Hannah Paige Michels

Whites for Racial Justice's March 14 meeting will be devoted in part to examining recent data from the Bias Advisory Response Team. Meeting topics are determined by the current campus climate and attendees' input.

"We do not claim to have definitive answers as to why that has happened or as to how we should respond," Fairfield said. "But we have been heartened by the response we have gotten so far, and we are listening carefully to those who are attending our meetings."

The facilitators said that WFRJ's attendees are crucial to further developing of the group because of their influence on meeting topics. Rather than establishing a hard and fast modus operandi for the meetings, each meeting's topic or topics are determined by the current tensions on campus as well as the information attendees would like to learn more about or find important to discuss as a group.

This method was chosen so that the facilitators and students involved have the ability to figure out how they would like this new group to grow and where its future lies.

For example, the facilitators decided to base the March meeting on two topics: the history of racism and incidents of discrimination on campus as reported by the Bias Advisory and Response Team as well as the climate survey conducted in 2016. The meeting will also discuss the first chapter of the book *Racism: A Short History* by George Fredrickson.

This meeting will be held today, Wednesday, March 14, from 3:30-4:45 p.m. in the Musketeer Mezzanine located in Bishop Fenwick Place. The information gathered at the meeting will determine the path for April's meeting.

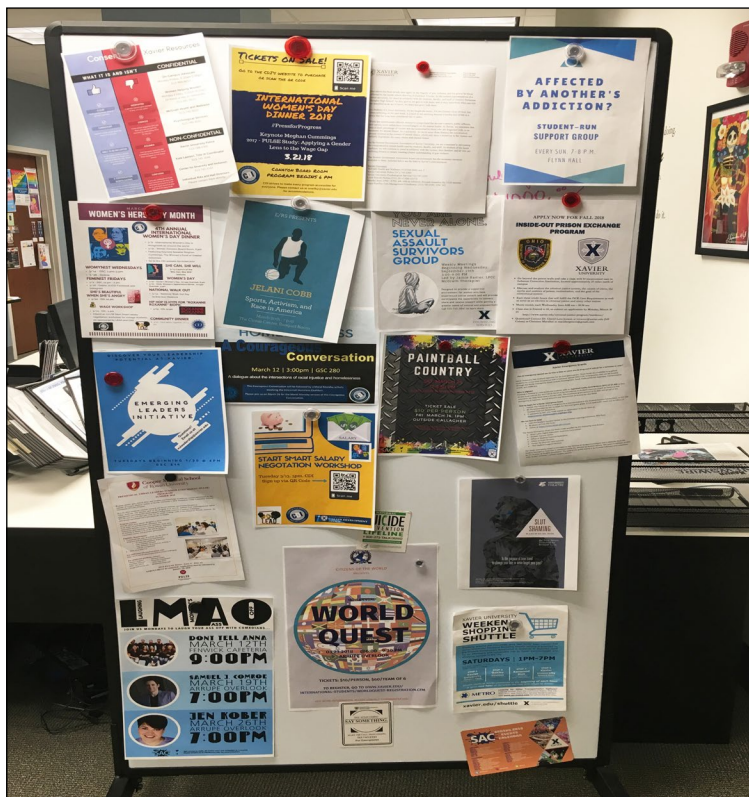
Although WFRJ is only beginning to establish its presence at Xavier, the facilitators maintain that its goal will continue to be to spread solidarity via reflection and acknowledgements of racism in the community, beginning

with Xavier's campus.

The next meeting will take place from 3:30-4:45 p.m. on April 18 in the Musketeer Mezzanine. More information can be obtained through contacting Tracey DuEst through email at duestt@xavier.edu or phone at (513) 745-3114.

In case you missed it:

Today, March 14, at 10 a.m., a national walkout in honor of those killed in the Parkland High School shooting will be held. Xavier University will be holding its own walkout on April 20, which also marks the 19th anniversary of the Columbine shootings.



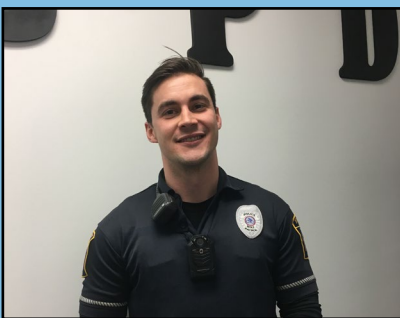
Newswire photo by Hannah Paige Michels

The affinity group Whites for Racial Justice joins a number of other on-campus groups dedicated to strengthening solidarity amongst students.

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March's Officer of the Month is Brent O'Connor, who has been at Xavier for four years



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Father Michael Graham, president, sent a campus-wide letter discussing the DREAM Act



Sports, Page 6

The baseball team ended its spring break with a tough four-game series in San Francisco



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American Idol returned this weekend with new judges, new talent and a new network



Get to know your favorite GSC cop

Officer Brent O'Connor discusses becoming an officer and working at Xavier

By SOONDOS MULLA-OSSMAN
Copy Editor

For this Officer of the Month installment, the *News-wire* had the opportunity to sit down with Xavier University Police Department (XUPD) officer Brent O'Connor. The following is an edited transcript.

Have you always wanted to be a police officer?

I am very detail-oriented — I pick up on little minute details that a lot of people don't, and the interacting with people, I enjoy that a lot. In high school, my brother got into law enforcement and I was like "man, that's cool." I could definitely see myself doing it. And I've always liked helping people. I think that a lot of people get left by the wayside, and I've always thought that I could do something to help a community or my community in some way. So that's kinda of what piqued my interest for police work. And then before I went to the academy, I worked at a plant. I was moving into management, and they ended up closing down. I was either going to go into fire academy or police academy, and I decided police academy. So that put me here.

What the sheriff's office did is we would meet once a week, and we would (practice) a scenario, you would learn how to approach a certain scenario, and it'd be kind of like a classroom. You'd take notes and learn about it. And then the next week, you'd practice. And to be honest, I think (those were) some of the most impactful things that I've learned and I still fall back on even now.

What is your favorite part about working with XUPD? Are there any highlights?

There was a student that I had heard absolutely wanted no contact with police. (He) grew up in a neighborhood that they didn't call the police for anything unless it was a shooting or something, and even still, they didn't really call them. So when I first started and first saw him and whatnot — I'm a very engaging person, so even if I don't stop and talk to you, I'm gonna at least wave or give you a nod...He would immediately look away. He was actually moving from Kuhlman to the Commons and carrying four boxes at a time. And I stopped — I was in a car, and I stopped — and asked him if he wanted some help, and he (said), "Really? You gonna do that?" and it was a complete change in his demeanor toward the entire department. And to me that was probably the most gratifying thing I've experience here.



News wire photo by Soondos Mulla-Ossman

Brent O'Connor has been with Xavier for nearly four years. In high school, he was in the Explorer Program at the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. At 26, he attended Great Oaks Academy and then started working at Xavier.

That's a small thing (that you did for him).

Yes, and that's what too many people don't understand. The small, little things can make the biggest impact on somebody that you don't even realize. And I think that's awesome. That's the most important thing for me.

What do you mean when you say Xavier's whole parking situation is a pet peeve?

I think that there are a lot of things that could happen to make things easier on students, police and everybody involved. I think that there could be a garage put up somewhere. I've heard that the amount of money put into it wouldn't be recouped, so that kind of negates that. I also think that permits could be different. There's a resident and a commuter. I think you could have different levels. Since we've reduced the escorts that we offer, people were complaining about how far they have to walk. And if we could have a parking permit that allows you to park anywhere, make it — I think a permit's \$175 for resident — make it \$400, something along those lines, then if you

stepped it down, and allow somebody to park in either commuter or resident lots, you could do it for maybe \$250—but I feel like there's more opportunity than what is being used now. But it's not my decision, and it's just thoughts that I come up with.

Students see you a lot in Gallagher. Could you tell me a little more about that?

I drink coffee a lot. So I'd say probably initially, it was me going to get coffee at Coffee Emporium and maybe getting to know the baristas. Then it just kind of snowballed per se. And also I'll stop and talk to the managers and try to have a little bit of rapport there. I feel like the longer I'm here, the more I talk to friends of the baristas and then friends of those friends and then friends of those friends, and it just goes farther and farther. And I've done some things with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) and the Office of Student Involvement (OSI), so it seems like the people I talk to down on the first floor end up being the ones that are also in the OSI and CDI, but nonetheless, I've gotten involved with things and gotten in contact with

more and more students, and I'll talk about anything with just about anybody.

(Two students) were talking about genetically engineered meat, and (one) is a vegan and (the other) was kinda messing with her if she would eat it because it's not actually produced by an animal. It's a very interesting topic. They talked for — I was there for maybe a half hour talking to them about it, but they were still talking about it when I left.

What do you do when you're not on duty? What are your hobbies?

I have five kids, so they keep me busy. Usually when I'm off I'm playing with them or taking them to school. As far as hobbies, yes, I love sports. I'm an avid fantasy football player. My second oldest son, he plays baseball. He's 9. So we often are out in the yard playing baseball, and now my son Bryce, he's 5, he'll be starting to play more and more out there. So this summer should be pretty interesting. But other than that, I like to drink. But I don't have much time for that anymore.

Is there anything you do that you feel students take

for granted?

I think there are times that the department as a whole is taken for granted. But anything I do in particular that's taken for granted, I wouldn't say that per se. I feel like there are times that students lose sight of the fact that we are here to provide safety. And sometimes speeding is rampant across campus. That's probably going to be a focus for our department in the next year — to try and reduce some of the safety issues in that regard on the roads. We're gonna try to get it to be a little more focused on that. Something that students might not know is that I'm Rape Aggression Defense certified, which is a self-defense class for women that just started this year. So I'm trying to get the word out more and more for that.

One more thing that students might not know about — myself and officer Matt Randolph are trying to revitalize XUPD's Facebook page and Twitter account and possible Instagram in the future. We'll see. But we're hoping to get the following there much higher. He just started taking it over two weeks ago and asked me to help, so I'd like to try and get the word out to as many students as possible.

Any final thoughts?

I don't have any prophetic words of wisdom or anything like that. I appreciate the honor of being called the Officer of the Month. My sergeant told me when I got here yesterday, and I said, "Officer of the Month, is that a thing, what is that?"

I think it's an awesome thing to start the Officer of the Month because all the officers that don't necessarily get out and talk to as many people. I didn't realize that there are so many people that read the *News wire*. It's pretty impressive how many students grab it and read through it. So I think that's awesome to try and help the student body and even the faculty members get to know us because it's hard for us to get to know really anybody, especially second and third shift where I get here at 3 in the afternoon, and by 5, most of the faculty members are gone. Any office people are generally gone.

So if we get a call, we're getting called to somebody we've never seen, we've never met, know nothing about. They know nothing about us, they don't know what to expect, and it'll help a lot to just try to break down that barrier a little bit and make people feel a little bit more comfortable with everybody.

Graham calls for a clean Dream Act

Congress's failure to act on DACA sparks Xavier's commitment to take action



Photo courtesy of Isabela McClintock

Xavier students and members of advocacy group Youth Educating Society made signs in November before demonstrating in front of Senator Rob Portman's office. The event was a part of Xavier's UndocuWeek.

By JACK DUNN
Staff Writer

Father Michael Graham, president, released a campus-wide letter on Monday affirming Xavier's commitment to protect current "Dreamers" in the student body. The letter also highlighted what has already been done at the university level to advocate for legislative action.

The letter opens by recapping Congress's failure to pass legislation to protect "Dreamers" on March 5, when the program was set to expire. However, as the letter notes, on Feb. 26, a federal judge ruled that the Trump administration must stop revoking undocumented youth deportation protections without due process. Under the court

order, the federal government must reinstate undocumented immigrants' deportation protections and cannot revoke them without at least notifying them first, offering an explanation and giving time for a response. The letter also offers praise for the student leaders who are taking action on the issue, including Dreamers José Cabrera and Heyra Avila and the Student Government Association (SGA) as a whole.

"This is not a partisan issue. It is a moral issue," Graham said in the letter. "The message to Congress is: pass a 'clean Dream Act.' A clean, bipartisan Dream Act would come with responsibilities for immigrants...to meet certain requirements while protect-

ing them from deportation and offer them a path to citizenship."

The letter states that "immigration status is not and will not be a factor when making admission decisions." It also offers various resources for students and encourages those to reach out for help if they have any questions.

Cabrera believes "the University is doing as much as they can with their resources

and what the University is allowed to do. There is always more work that can be done."

President Donald Trump revoked DACA in September 2017, saying it was an "amnesty-first approach," and urged Congress to pass a replacement before March 5 when the administration would begin to phase out the various protections offered. Trump said in a statement that he was driven by concern for "the millions of Americans victimized by this unfair system." Attorney General Jeff Sessions believed that the program "had denied hundreds of thousands of Americans by allowing those same illegal aliens to take those jobs."

Despite the move drawing bipartisan criticism at the time, no legislation has been passed to extend protections or offer a path to citizenship for Dreamers. The federal government shut down on Jan. 20, when Democrats refused to help Senate Republicans pass an appropriations bill to fund the government. Democrats wanted to pass the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act before agreeing to fund the government. However, Republicans wanted funding for Trump's border wall to be attached to any DREAM legislation.

The DREAM Act was first introduced in August 2001 by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) to provide a process for "alien"

minors in the U.S. to receive conditional residence and eventually permanent residency. It has yet to pass in Congress despite being re-introduced several times in different variations since 2001.

The future of DACA and its recipients remains uncertain. While the most recent court decision offers temporary protection, there is little chance of Congressional action anytime soon. While Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) has co-sponsored a bill that has conservative backing, the legislation does not have enough support from Democrats to pass the chamber. This inaction has left the future of Dreamers up for debate since the protections they currently have will most likely end at some point in the near future.

However, Cabrera holds out hope for bipartisan legislation. "I think I will be. I have to," he said.

Graham encourages students to participate in advocating for Dreamers by phoning, mailing or emailing their legislators. The letter also includes a link to Cabrera's Youth Educating Society, an advocacy group run out of the Cincinnati Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center. Cabrera recommends those who want to help to be as informed as possible.

"Do as much research as you possibly can. Make sure that the information is valid," he advised.

POLICE NOTES

Feb. 27, 12:55 p.m. — Xavier Police and Residence Life investigated a report of a student and non-student arguing inside Husman Hall. The argument involved a dispute about personal belongings. Both parties were referred to civil court and sent on their way.

March 1, 10:32 a.m. — A student reported they were assaulted by another student during an intramural basketball game at the O'Connor Sports Center. No contact orders were issued.

March 2, 3:14 p.m. — Xavier Police investigated the report of a subject attempting to enter the cafeteria without paying. The subject was sent on their way.

March 3, 12:24 a.m. — Xavier Police investigated a

NOTE OF THE WEEK
This student was Delta bad hand right before break

March 3, 4:54 a.m. — Xavier Police and Residence Life investigated a report of an underage intoxicated student sleeping in the fourth floor hallway of Husman Hall. The student was woken up and walked back to their room where they were released to get some sleep before their flight home at noon.

report of an underage, intoxicated student attempting to purchase alcohol at the UDF at the intersection of Dana Avenue and Montgomery Avenue. The student was trans-

ported to their residence hall and was referred to the code of conduct process.

March 6, 5:59 p.m. — Xavier Police and Norwood Police received a report from a student living at University Station that their apartment door was found open and unlocked when they came home from work. The apartment was searched, and all was OK.

March 10, 2:57 a.m. — Xavier Police assisted a motorist with a broken down vehicle at the entrance to the Alumni Center Lot. The driver was cited again to court on an outstanding arrest warrant.

March 10, 2:37 p.m. — A student reported they had been receiving harassing messages from another student. No contact orders were issued and Residence Life was notified.

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Look inward before you judge the world

It's no secret to anyone who knows me that I am a massive fan of hard rock and heavy metal. Maybe it's the epic lyrics or maybe it's the primal sound, but that kind of music has always pulled at my soul. Recently, I heard the song "Do You Really Want It?" by the band Nothing More. Its refrain goes "Everyone wants to change the world, but one thing's clear, no one ever wants to change themselves."

There are scant few phrases that could describe our modern world better than that. People always see issues with the society and structures around them but fail to look within themselves with the same critical eye. We're all guilty of this; after

Many of the problems that I traced back to my own poor decision making, bad actions and failures were ones that I had originally blamed on others or society. I felt awful.

all, it's so much easier to see flaws in others than in ourselves.

That isn't exactly an uncommon view, neither is the natural follow-up of "set your house in perfect order before you criticize the world." It's a variant of the common idea of looking inward before outward, but from an academic source: Dr. Jordan B. Peterson, Canadian psychologist, professor and author of *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos*. The above-mentioned phrase is actually the sixth rule of those 12, and I think it may be one of his most important arguments.

Now I know it's quite a common argument that we should look at ourselves be-

fore we criticize the world. In fact, I know of many people who have used it to dismiss criticisms of society and themselves. This poor usage I find to be disingenuous to the purpose of the phrase as well as insulting if the criticism was offered in good faith. There is wisdom in this concept, but only if you're willing to actually look into yourself.

I thought for the longest time that I didn't need to examine myself with a critical eye. Maybe that was my naïveté talking, or maybe I was scared of what I was going to find. Looking back on it, I think I was more scared than naïve. I was worried that I would find that most of the problems in my life were my own fault.

In spite of that, I decided to forge ahead and critically examine myself with the eye that I used on others and society as a whole. I turned the judgmental viewpoint that I aimed at the world inward. What I found, I didn't like.

It was about what I imagined. A far greater portion of my problems were my own fault than I had imagined. That hurt. Many of the problems that I traced back to my own poor decision-making, bad actions and failures were ones that I had originally blamed on others or society. I felt awful.

Yet, there was another piece of information from Peterson's sixth rule that enlightened me as to why what I found was a good thing. Yes, I had caused a lot of the problems and suffering I had found when I critically examined myself, but that meant that I could fix it myself, too. There was hope after all.

So I took responsibility for my actions and choices that caused problems for others and myself. Then I started working on myself, to reach the standards I had set. It's been hard work, but it's been worth it every step.

Thinking on the flaws that I found when I did my own critical self-examination, I re-

alized that I really couldn't enact any changes in the world until I resolved the issues that I'd found. If I didn't I would keep making the same mistakes, save that the scale and damage they caused would be increased as I rose in my career and community. That's something that I couldn't tolerate for myself.

So, take a look inside yourself, dear reader. Find the root of your problems and suffering, then work on the world's problems.



Colin Lang is a junior History and Philosophy, Politics and the Public double major. He is a staff writer for the Newswire from Westlake, Ohio.

Men don't realize every day is International Men's Day

On March 8, we celebrated International Women's Day as a reminder of the strength and power that women across the world have. What should have been a day filled with pride and joy was sadly tainted by idiocy on social media by men. I fully expected reactions from men saying that International Women's Day was unnecessary or to see a man say "what about international men's day?" The thing is, every day is international

men's day, and yet they aren't satisfied.

In a recent article, "The Boys Are Not All Right" published in *The New York Times*, a conversation began about the damage caused by modern masculinity. The article claimed that "boys are broken" and that women are thriving because of feminism's successes. I am in no way trying to say that boys aren't broken, but what I will say is that this argument is a bunch of crap.

Masculine struggles do not face the same struggles of feminism. There have not been hundreds of years of oppression of men, and there have not been enough triumphs for women. The issues of gender inequality are not one size fits all, and masculinity crises are not the same as feminist ones.

Before anyone (men) gets too worked up about the claims I have made, let me clarify a few things. There undoubtedly are problems with the expectations of men and it is nearly impossible to fit into

the modern masculine molds. The strides that women have also made toward equality are incredible, and feminism in the past few decades has changed the world. There are recognitions to be made for each side of this issue, but there are also many problems.

The issue with *The New York Times* article is that it insinuates that women and men face the same gender inequalities. To make the claim that women are the "(beneficiaries)" of decades of conversation about the complexities of womanhood" is to completely neglect the inequalities that women still face every day. Yes, feminism has advanced women's rights immensely, and people are more socially conscious of the issues that women face. The issue, however, is that women's rights are still relatively far from solved. There are still gender biases, pay gaps, reproductive rights and stereotype battles to be won. To say that women "benefit" from the few decades

of revolution coming from a lifetime of oppression is overestimating reality.

One of the other issues addressed in the article is the fact that men don't have an outlet for their emotions without feeling ostracized for being feminine. This may be the case for some men, but to say that men "don't even have the language to talk about how they feel" is just not true. Men have the language they need, they just don't use it. Did women have the language they needed to fight the hundreds of years of oppression?

I think it is important to reiterate the issue of masculinity. I realize that being a woman, I am not necessarily equipped to speak on behalf of men who struggle with the pressures of

being a man. The complexities of masculinity are things I will never fully understand, and the repercussions of these seem to be more catastrophic than of those of women, so societal standards of men need attention.

I can say pretty confidently, however, that men do not have the same movement in society as women do. That's because they don't need one. Men have not been questioned throughout history in the same way that women have been. Men do not face the same battles as we do, and to say that they do is an exercise in denial. The bottom line is that men may have their issues, but blaming them on the successes of feminism is not a probable solution.

To say that women "benefit" from the few decades of revolution coming from a lifetime of oppression is overestimating reality.



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*The Newswire has made the decision to stray from the AP Style Guide when printing the words White and Black in reference to groups of people. We have decided to capitalize both.

When did we lose our vision?

Criticism is easy; meaningful leadership is much more difficult.

Something interesting happened in Washington last week. In a refreshing twist on business as usual, Senate Democrats introduced a trillion dollar infrastructure bill that plans to employ a slight tax increase on the nation's wealthiest earners to meet America's dire need for modernized roads, bridges and schools. The plan would not raise taxes on the middle class or businesses — the drivers of economic growth in the Republican lexicon — and therefore constitutes a common sense, ostensibly bipartisan approach to addressing a pressing public need.

The bill will fail because of politics and money. But its very introduction and aims are indicative of something exciting: a rare contemporary example of the politics of affirmative vision.

...its very introduction and aims are indicative of something exciting: a rare contemporary example of the politics of affirmative vision.

For far too long, our politics on both sides of the aisle have been strangled by an approach that trumpets snide criticism and invites derision without offering a meaningful vision of what we ought to use politics to do. The approach has been most visibly embodied in the shrieks of repeal and replace Obamacare emanating from Congressional Republicans for the better part of the past decade. Since Inauguration Day 2017, with control of all three branches of the federal government, Obamacare's most vocal detractors have been granted the opportunity to act on repeal and replace and have failed miserably. The fundamental pitfall of repeal and replace remains that the doctrine falls far more on the side of tearing down the national healthcare system and almost completely lacks a substantive vision of what American healthcare should

look like in the aftermath — criticism without vision.

The past year offered a golden opportunity for our nation to engage in a meaningful conversation about what we collectively envision for healthcare. Republicans, with control of all three branches, had the critical opportunity to dictate the terms of the discussion and to offer their vision of what replace looks like. Instead, they squandered the turning point and failed miserably on successive attempts to repeal Obamacare.

Meanwhile, angry constituents set to lose their healthcare with no replacement in sight flooded town halls and congressional offices in a striking display of civic action. As it turns out, a decade of snide criticism and derision doesn't get you very far once you're in the driver's seat. The missing element in these politics: any sort of affirmative vision for America.

Criticism is easy; putting forth a meaningful vision is harder.

To be clear, this form of politics is far from unique to Republicans. Rather, it permeates our politics from top to bottom: From a dismissive

Chuck Schumer lobbying ad hominem attacks at White House personnel to contemptuous Facebook memes intent on shutting down gun reform debates by attacking liberals for not knowing proper fire-arm terminology, our politics is despairingly deprived of meaningful vision and meaningful conversation about what our nation ought to do.


Which leads me back to the infrastructure bill. What is so exciting about the bill is not that it was proposed by Democrats or that it redistributes wealth from the nation's richest to provide for public services and the common good. What makes the bill so exciting is that it pronounces a grand vision for addressing a pressing public concern that has gone unanswered for too long.

The bill offers us as a society a way for dealing with our nation's infrastructure needs, and now we can begin the democratic process of debating and discussing that vision. Perhaps the model or the methods aren't quite right — and that's OK — we can tweak it here or there or scrap it entirely and move on. But at least something meaningful sits on

the table for us to discuss.

The politics of affirmative vision will not come about from top down — we cannot rely on our leaders in Washington to usher in a new era of discourse when it is so easy to go on CNN and give a soundbite. Rather, it is incumbent on us as citizens to consciously move our politics forward, to engage in meaningful conversations about the public good and to be constructive in how we converse with one another.

Also, early voting for the 2018 primaries has begun in many states. Take this opportunity to make your voice heard.



Ryan Kambich is a junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public and economics double major. He is a copy editor for the Newswire from Deerfield, Ill.

Mental illness is an invisible affliction

While most disabilities and disorders are visible to people, there are many that are not. Most invisible disorders are mental, and the most prevalent are anxiety and depression. Whether or not someone is formally diagnosed with general anxiety disorder (GAD) or major depressive disorder, anxiety and depression are things that impact every aspect of those affected lives.

Anxiety is something that I have battled my entire life.



Emily Price is a first-year psychology major and staff writer for the Newswire from Miamisburg, Ohio.

When I was young, I overanalyzed everything that I said and did, as well as everything that others said and did to me. I did not know that what I was experiencing was anxiety because that word or concept was never presented to me. As I got older and my life became more intricate, it got worse. It started to show more of itself in my life in the form of perfectionism, sensitivity and self-detriment.

Since I did not know what this affliction was, I tried my best to keep it in. No one, not even my parents and closest friends, truly knew what I was going through. However, this did not change when I learned what it was a few years ago.

I am now more open with how it affected and currently affects me, but to a stranger or even a close acquaintance, I am completely normal. I appear put together, responsible and confident. While these things may be true, the

inside perspective is much different.

One of the main things I struggle with is social interactions. Every interaction fills me with doubt. I walk away from a pleasant conversation with a classmate or a professor and think, "Are they upset with me? Was I nice? Did I say something strange?"

Another problem is that without multiple planners and to-do lists, I would be unable to remember both the smallest and biggest things that I have to do. I would rush to every place I had to be and never feel prepared for whatever it was I was attending. The idea of behaving that way gives me nightmares, so to prevent it I plan everything. In fact, I plan so far in advance that it is near impossible for me to live in the moment. I am constantly thinking of what I have to do next hour, day, week or month.

My mind is a perpetual

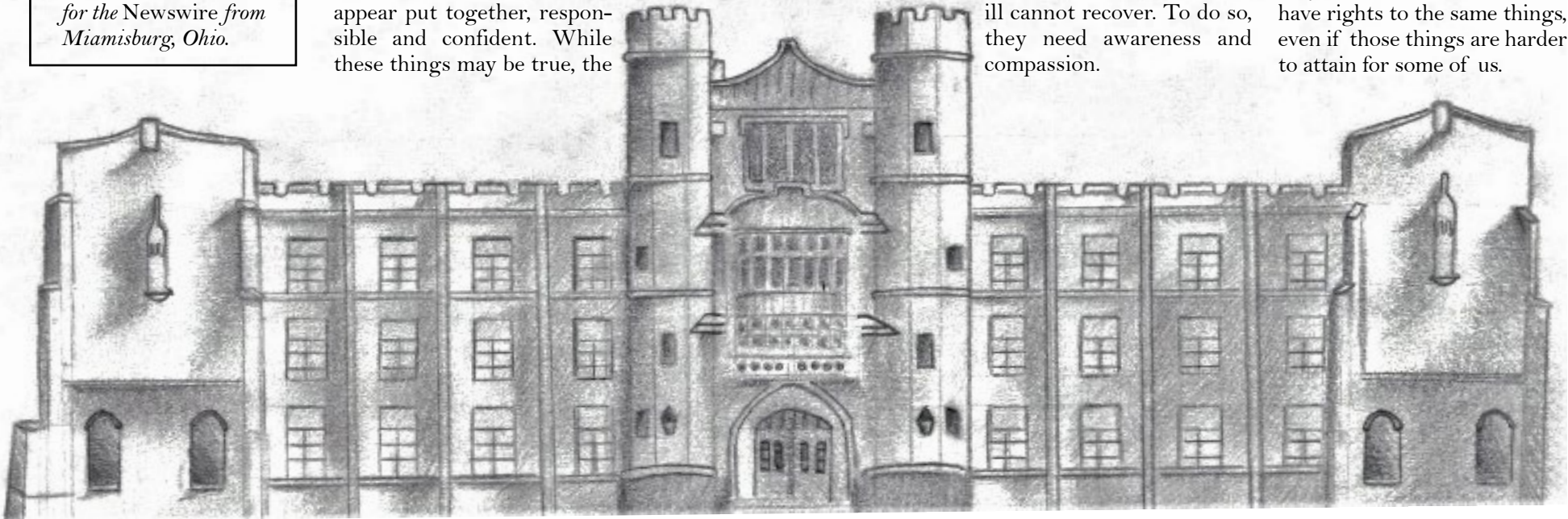
mess of seemingly insignificant worries, no matter how organized it seems from the outside. Its invisibility causes disbelief in some of the people whom I tell about my anxiety. It is disregarded, not taken seriously and occasionally labeled as fabricated. Therefore, according to society, anxiety and all other mental illnesses are not only invisible afflictions, but unimportant or even nonexistent ones.

While it may seem this way to those not impaired, to those who are, it takes its toll. It results in a colossal problem: The mentally ill cannot recover. To do so, they need awareness and compassion.

Although the awareness of mental illness has been increasing recently, for the idea of an invisible illness to be real in our society, awareness must continue to increase. To do this, the psychology of mental disorders should be freely taught and talked about in schools, families and businesses. Through this education and discussion, compassion can become the societal reaction to individuals with a mental illness.

This peaked awareness and heightened compassion will help the mentally ill feel understood. It will be easier for them to see that while their disorder may be invisible, they are not. We are all human beings, mentally afflicted or not, and we all have rights to the same things, even if those things are harder to attain for some of us.

...according to society, anxiety and all other mental illnesses are not only invisible afflictions, but unimportant or even nonexistent ones.



Xavier ready to dance in tourney

The Musketeers enter March Madness as the No. 1 seed in the West region

By **DONNIE MENKE**
Staff Writer

Xavier lost in the Big East Tournament semifinals last Friday in overtime against the Providence Friars after defeating the St. John's Red Storm in the tournament quarterfinals.

The team now looks ahead to the NCAA Tournament as a No. 1 seed, a first in program history. The Musketeers' first game is set for Friday at 7:20 p.m. against the winner of Texas Southern and North Carolina Central.

Xavier only led 33-29 at halftime before winning 88-60 against St. John's. Senior guard Trevon Bluiett had a big game, posting team highs in scoring with 27 points and rebounding with seven. Junior Kaiser Gates had a quality game as well, scoring 16 points on 6-7 shooting.

Senior J.P. Macura posted a solid all-around stat line, scoring nine points, grabbing six rebounds, dishing out five assists and grabbing four steals on the defensive end. However, head coach Chris Mack didn't feel Macura's full impact was shown in the box score.



NewsWire photo by Sydney Sanders

Senior guards Trevon Bluiett and J.P. Macura are the Musketeers' top scorers and hope to lead Xavier deep in the NCAA Tournament.

"I think so many of the things that he does very well don't necessarily resonate or show in the box scores. Certainly, he might get an assist, but again, is the guy shooting in his shooting pocket or is he catching it at his toes?" Mack said after the game.

"He also makes those plays where he just seems to maybe deflect the pass that one of his teammates gets credit for the steal, but he was the guy that was sort of the instigator in that. He does a lot of things whether it's set

screens, plays multiple positions, as do a lot of our guys. He's got win-first/J.P. second, and he's not alone. We've got a lot of players like that in the locker room, all of them."

At the beginning of the Providence game, it looked like Xavier would cruise to another easy win. The Musketeers built a 43-29 halftime lead, and the defense looked as strong as it had all season. Even after Xavier extended its lead to 17 in the beginning of the second half, the game looked to be over.

However, the Friars went on a furious rally during the next 15 minutes that erased Xavier's lead entirely. The game was tied 68-68 at the end of regulation. Xavier failed to make a field goal in overtime and only managed four free throws as Providence won the game 75-72.

Graduate student Kerem Kanter led the team in scoring with 18 points. He sank a would-be game-tying three-pointer at the end of overtime if the shot had gotten off in time. Freshman Paul Scruggs had a career high 15 points on what was his 20th birthday, going 4-5 from the field.

After falling to Providence, it was announced Sunday that Xavier would be a No. 1 in this year's NCAA Tournament. The Musketeers are the top seed in the West region of the bracket and will face the winner of the North Carolina Central/Texas Southern play-in game on Wednesday.

Texas Southern's non-conference schedule was rated as the toughest in college basketball. It played teams such as Kansas, Gonzaga and Oregon all on the road. It lost all

of those games as well. North Carolina Central has gotten hot at the right time, winning its conference tournament after finishing sixth in the regular season standings.

Assuming Xavier avoids making the wrong kind of history in being the first one-seed to lose to a 16, they will take on the winner of Missouri/Florida State in the round of 32. Missouri could be a difficult matchup for Xavier, as potential top-five pick Michael Porter Jr. just returned from injury for the Tigers.

The Sweet 16 could be really tricky for Xavier, as Gonzaga, who won last year's tournament matchup against the Musketeers, could be the opponent.

Adding to the fact the game would be played in Los Angeles, Gonzaga is playing its best basketball of the season and could pose the biggest challenge on the road to the Final Four.

If Xavier is able to survive that, it would likely face North Carolina or Michigan in the Elite Eight. Both are teams known to have perennial tournament success.

Musketeers take West Coast road trip

By **JACK DUNN**
Staff Writer

The Xavier baseball team came up short this past weekend, going 1-3 in a four-game series against the San Francisco Dons to end spring break.

The Musketeers were able to claim victory in the first game of the series, winning 14-6. Freshman southpaw Trevor Olson got his first career win, pitching seven innings and striking out three while giving up five runs.

Junior infielder Chris Givin had four hits, including a home run, with two runs scored and a career-high five RBIs. Xavier was able to snap a five-game losing streak with the win, scoring the 14 runs on only 13 hits.

There wasn't as much luck in game two of the series on Friday, with the Musketeers falling 8-2. Despite San Francisco scoring in the first inning, Xavier responded with a fielder's choice RBI by freshman infielder Ryan Altenberger.

Graduate senior outfielder Joe Gellenbeck knocked in Altenberger with a two-out double. San Francisco countered with a grand slam in the bottom half of the inning, putting the game out of reach for the Musketeers.

Xavier fell just short in the first game of a Saturday doubleheader, losing 8-5. With the team down 8-1 with



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Senior catcher Nate Soria hit a grand slam in the first game of the Saturday doubleheader against San Francisco. He is currently hitting .243 with a .351 slugging percentage. He has nine hits and six RBIs this year.

two outs in the ninth, senior catcher Nate Soria hit a grand slam to bring the Musketeers within three runs. However, Xavier was unable to capitalize and fell short. Despite receiving credit for the loss, senior right-handed pitcher Damien Richard still posted a solid outing, only allowing two earned runs while striking out seven.

Game two of the doubleheader was a close game, but ultimately the Musketeers lost 1-0. Xavier had six hits, with Gellenbeck and sophomore infielder Conor Grammes both going 2-4 with a double each.

Grammes also pitched two perfect innings of relief, striking out five. Freshman righty Henry Miller also put

in a strong performance. Despite being charged with the loss, he only gave up one run on three hits while striking out three.

"The biggest takeaway is that we know we are still a good team," Gellenbeck said. "It's easy to panic and lose confidence after a road trip like this, but that's not where we're at right now."

"The good thing is we came away with more answers than questions this past weekend. We had a lot of opportunities to win games. It just seemed like we struggled to extend the lead or get the big hit or out when it was needed. We're a tough team and success is going to come in those big opportunities."

Xavier was supposed to

visit Wright State in Dayton on Tuesday for a 6:30 game. However, it was canceled because of low forecasted temperatures in the Dayton area.

In the meantime, Xavier will play this weekend against Miami (Ohio). The Musketeers first travel to Miami for games on Friday and Saturday, but then they return on Sunday for their home opener to close out the series.

Gellenbeck has a positive outlook going into this series. "We have always been really good at putting a lot of pressure on other teams, especially offensively. We want to continue to apply this pressure, so making sure that we aren't getting ourselves out as much is a big key for us moving forward," he said.

Sports Banter

Food Lover's Dream

The MLB recently announced that it will host the MLB FoodFest on April 21-22 in New York City. The event will showcase one unique dish served at the ballparks at each of the 30 organizations.

But it's not Tuesday?

Arizona Diamondbacks starting pitcher Taijuan Walker did something interesting on Monday: He served free homemade tacos to fans out of a customized food truck before the team's game against the Rockies.

Not just a rainforest

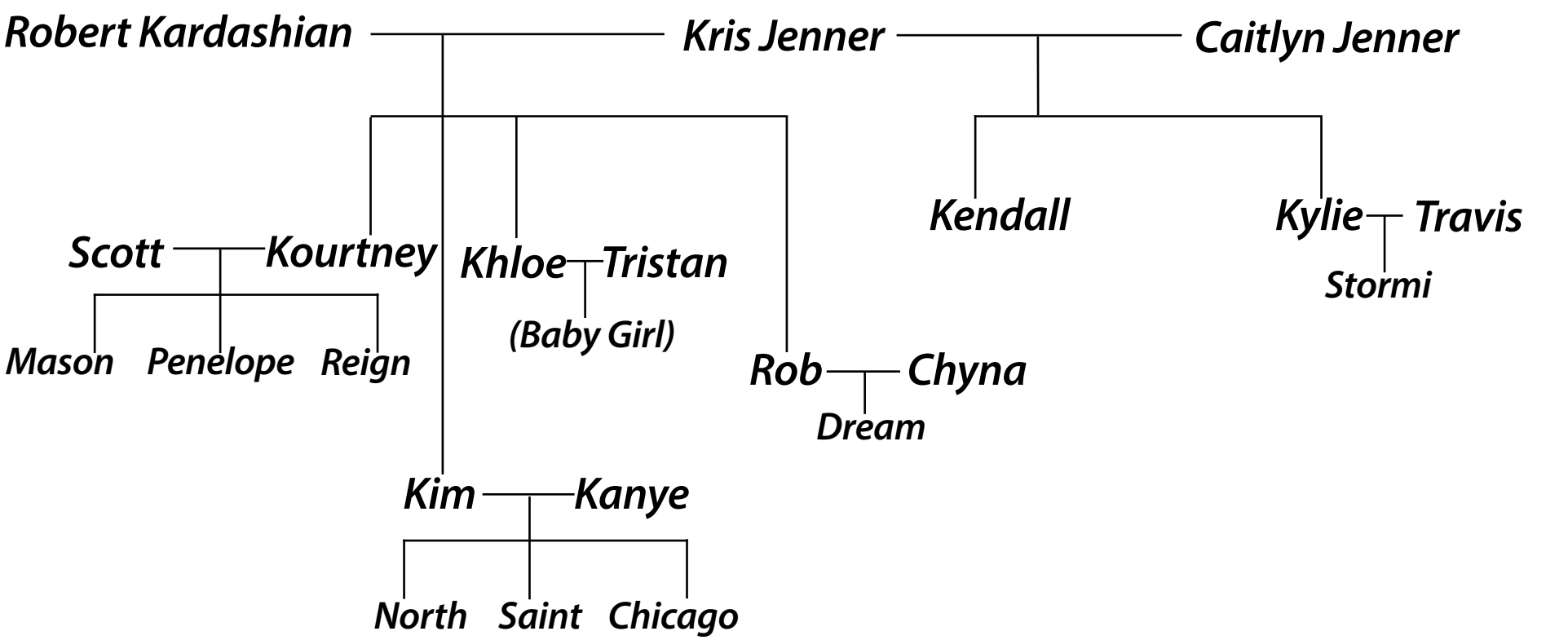
A CNBC report stated that major companies such as Amazon will be in the running to take on major live sporting events within the next few years.

Swanton Bomb(shell)

WWE superstar Jeff Hardy was arrested on Saturday for driving while impaired. He ran his car off the road and struck a guard rail, doing \$8,000 worth of damage to his car.

The Kardashian family tree

If you pay attention to pop culture at all, you know that the Kardashian family is rapidly expanding. Here's a cheat sheet to keep the clan straight.



Petras is the new voice of pop

BY TREVOR MCKENZIE
Online Editor

Toward the end of 2017, Spotify released a “Songs You Might’ve Missed” playlist to celebrate the incoming new year. Little did I know that I was about to unearth a diamond in the rough as I scrolled through the playlist. The artist I discovered? Pop diva Kim Petras.

Saying that Kim Petras revolutionized my predominantly diva-pop playlist is truly an understatement. Her debut single and the song that introduced me to her talent was “I Don’t Want It At All,” a song described as a “sugar baby anthem” by critics and Petras herself. Drawing heavily from 80s synth pop, with pounding gated reverb drums and warm, staccato synths in the vein of Madonna or Gloria Estefan, the song features Petras effortlessly switching between low, seductive verses and high, belting choruses. “I Don’t Want It At All” is a song unlike any other. The carefree, indulgent lyrics – “give me all of your attention, / give me summer in the Hamptons” – tap into our desire to be spoiled to infinity and draw to mind the image of endless outlet malls and piles of credit cards. If you aren’t dancing by the third chorus, you’re not listening to the song correctly. Enchanted by Petras’ unique sound and powerful vocals, I sought out more of her work. The next bop I discovered was “Hillside Boys.” The song opens with the sound of bubbly champagne pouring and then launches into a throbbing bass, violin-like synths and an eighth note drumbeat as Petras belts about late summer afternoons

spent with irresistible Los Angeles boys. I envision this song being sung at a Coachella-esque summer festival for a crowd of picnicking California locals and faraway-travelling tourists. Few songs capture the fun of summertime like “Hillside Boys.”

At this point, Kim Petras is becoming one of my fa-



Transgender pop diva Kim Petras is revolutionizing the pop music industry with her songs like “I Don’t Want It At All” while being an ally voice.

vorite artists. When I discovered her most recent single, I jumped with joy. “Heart to Break” is a classic head-over-heels love song that maintains Petras’ signature 80s vibe. Petras shows off even more impressive belting as she declares her unstoppable infatuation. The song praises loving hard and fast with no regard for the consequences, exemplified in the song’s pounding chorus that could bring any hardened listener to their feet. As she adlibs the final chorus, I can’t help but feel like I’m riding passenger-side in a beat-up convertible with the love of my life as the car flies down an empty highway, a la Katy Perry’s “Teenage Dream.” The transition between the vocal glitch/electronic vocal

bridge into the final chorus is so exciting that I get goosebumps every time I listen to it. On top of a bottomless well of vocal talent, Petras is also one of the few transgender music artists in the business today. She made headlines in 2013 for discussing her transition surgery, years before she began debuting her amazing singles. The LGBTQ+

community, particularly the gay community, has been overwhelmingly receptive of Petras’ work. One look at the comment sections on her YouTube channel reveals dozens of snatched wigs. If you’re watching any artist in 2018, it should absolutely be Kim Petras. Her talent is endless and consistent. Her sound is a unique blend of modern diva pop and 80s synth pop. Her presence as a talented transgender musician is a powerful industry statement. If she hasn’t won at least four music awards by the end of August, I’ll personally stage a protest on her behalf. I have high hopes for this up-and-coming singer, and I know her talent and charm will rapidly lift her to icon status.



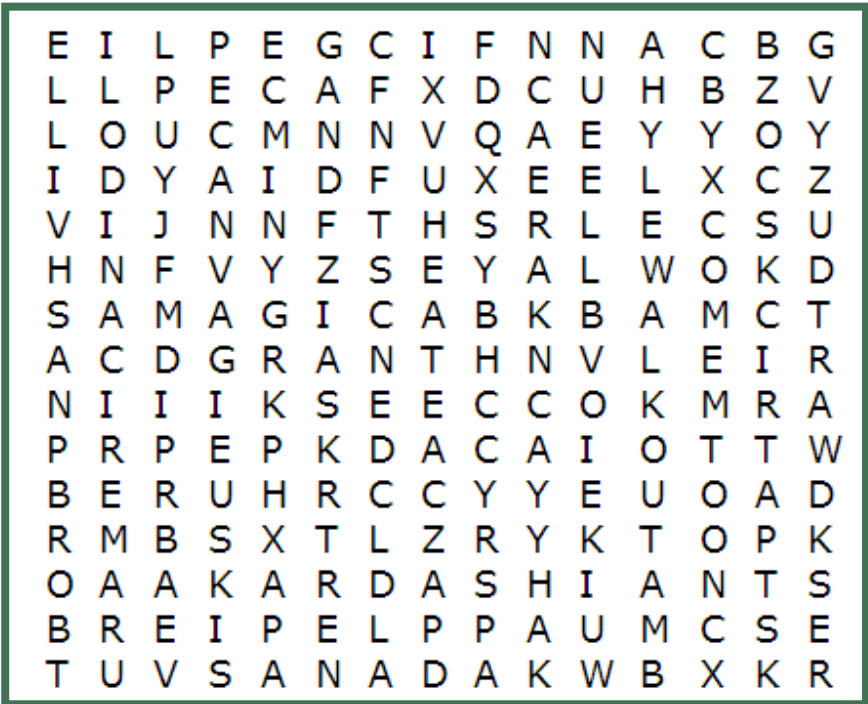
The judges for the reboot of the show are Lionel Richie, Katy Perry and Luke Bryan. Longtime host Ryan Seacrest maintains his position.

American Idol gets a heartfelt facelift

BY JESSICA GRIGGS
Editor-in-Chief

Joining shows like *Roseanne*, *Will & Grace* and *Whose Line Is It Anyway*, *American Idol* was resurrected from the canceled TV show graveyard for a two-night premiere event Sunday and Monday. Although the OG singing competition show boasts new judges, new talent and a new network, not much has noticeably changed. In fact, the *Idol* reboot’s greatest strength is its return to its classic roots underneath the surface-level changes. *American Idol* first aired 16 years ago before some of this year’s contestants were even born, and much of the two-hour premiere episodes focused on how this new generation grew up during the heyday of the show. Young talents like Noah Davis, Layla Spring and Alyssa Raghu were quick to point out that they’d grown up watching the show and dreaming of winning only to have their hopes dashed when the show was canceled two years ago. Those hopes

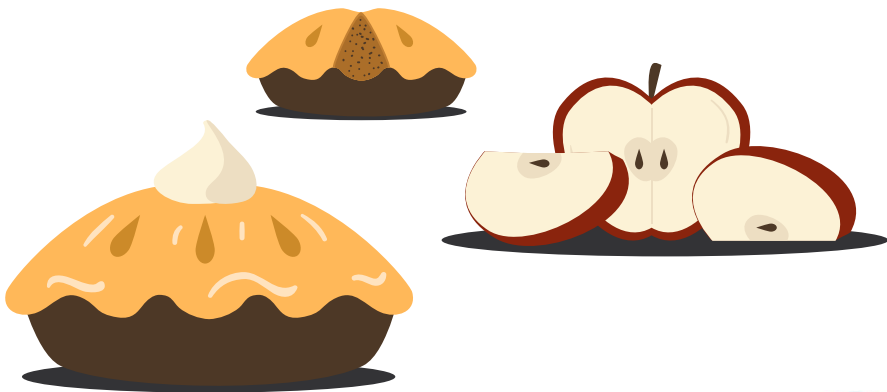
will likely be realized for one 2000s baby now, as most of the competition shown has been far and away dominated by the nostalgic teens. Along with the fresh talent, the judges’ table hosts three new superstars to impart their advice on the young group of singers. Popstar Katy Perry is flanked by country heartthrob Luke Bryan and R&B legend Lionel Richie, and so far, it’s been abundantly clear that these judges are cohesive and get along. They’ve doled out coveted golden tickets to Hollywood as one unit on more than one occasion. Perry is clearly meant to be the focal point of the show, but as the premiere unfolded, Bryan and Richie became more of a presence in the audition room. After the show’s lackluster last few seasons, *Idol*’s new wealth of talent on both sides of the judges’ table promises an interesting return to a show that once dominated the ratings. *Idol*’s biggest competitor, *The Voice*, still won the ratings race Monday night, but *Idol*’s focus on the new generation could gain more traction as the season progresses.



Pi Day	Nashville	DACA
St. Patrick's	Trashketball	Apple Pie
Dana's	Bye Ryan's Pub	Pecan
Irish	Kardashian	Caf
Cheesecake	American Idol	Walkout



Photo courtesy of Safely Endangered



Aries: I'm sensing that you will be spending your Saturday at an Irish bar just down the street, but I have no idea why.



Taurus: Don't go searching for rainbows this Saturday because you're already gold.



Gemini: You need to cleanse yourself of your two-faced ways, so for the next week, do all the truths on the 5 gum packaging.



Cancer: Buy a ticket for SAC's paintball trip this Friday for your own *10 Things I Hate About You* moment.



Leo: Not only is Fortnite still ruling your entire life, but it is also the number of days until Easter break!



Virgo: The best U.S. state for you to live in is O-pie-o where your happiness level on a scale from one to five will be above 3.14.



Libra: You will find tickets and a ride to Nashville for the game last minute. Cheer for the Muskies and get discovered as the next big country singer!



Scorpio: Down with social media and texting, only e-mail the people you want to talk to. It's your destiny to make electronic mail trendy again.



Sagittarius: Skip class and go on a road trip to Pie Town, N.M.; it will be a piece of pie to make up your course load!



Capricorn: The fate of Xavier basketball rests on you! Every time Xavier shoots, you have to make a basket in trashketball.



Aquarius: The secret to getting a good grade is to give your teacher an apple every single day, but you need to be creative with your presentation.



Pisces: Treat yourself to a night on the town because you're young, dumb and broke, but it's ok because Xavier will be the NCAA champs!



A Caf Girl's Guide to the Caf

A step by step guide on how to be a beloved caf customer!

BRITTANY WELLS

Staff Writer

This past semester I started working at our beloved cafeteria. Love it or hate it, it's where you'll spend a lot of time during your Xavier career, and, if you're on campus, you're paying a lot for it, so you shouldn't take it for granted. Here are a couple tips and tricks I've learned in my short caf career so far.

1. Turn your phone off

Walk into the caf with your phone off and put it away. If you're on the phone, warn the person before you get to the front desk. It's common courtesy.

2. Don't get me sick, please!

If you see me use hand sanitizer nine times out of 10 it's because your ALL Card was sticky, coughed on or mysteriously stained bright red. Yes, I noticed.

3. Keep your eyes peeled

Look to see if a register is counting money or doing a confusing transaction, there's a reason we have two cashiers, so take advantage of it and let us count in peace!

4. You're not that slick

Yes, we know that when you want us to use your regular swipes instead of your guest swipes on guests you say "can you swipe twice," and no, it doesn't change the fact that I will enforce the rules. Also, if you're going to go out of your way to use someone else's ALL Card (don't), at least match the race/gender. Unlike your fake at Cancun, we actually look at your ALL Card.

5. Say hi to us!

A simple act of eye contact or a quick hello makes us feel appreciated, and it helps pass the time, too. Just don't linger, we are working!

Caf Secret Menu

1. Caf-uccino

Mix three scoops of chocolate ice cream and one scoop of vanilla ice cream for a frap in the caf.

2. Under 21 Root Beer Float

Swirl some vanilla ice cream into a cup and find the only soda stream with Mug root beer for a delicious and refreshing treat!

3. Starbies on a Budget

Get a cool glass of plain Tropicana lemonade and ask for a packet of Tazo Passion Tea from the front. Steep the tea in the cold lemonade and stir well for a refreshingly tart beverage!